

## **Listing of the Claims**

1. (amended): In a network comprised of a multiplicity of computers, each computer having a communication device, each computer having an operating system with interfaces for communication connectivity and synchronization, a method for using a service, the method comprising:
  - a. a first component of software executing on a first computer inside a firewall connecting to, and sending a request to registering as a specified service, with a central directory service process executing on a second computer outside the firewall;
  - b. in response thereto, the central directory service process authenticating the request and creating a registration entry for representative of the first component of software-specified service;
  - c. a second component of software executing on a third computer outside the firewall connecting to, and sending ~~and communicating a request to the directory service process, the request representative of a request to the central directory service to~~ access and interact with the specified service ~~provided by the first component of software; and~~
  - d. in response thereto, the central directory service process, responsive to receiving the request, accepting the connection, authenticating the request, locating the registration entry for the first component of software-specified service, and facilitating communications with-between the first component of software connected specified service on behalf of and the connected second component of software.
2. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a software engine service.
3. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is an authentication service.

4. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a generic front end loading service.
5. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a payment connection service.
6. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a data sharing service.
7. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a medical test results reporting service
8. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a data store forwarding service.
9. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a physician pharmaceutical service.
10. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is an academic transcript service.
11. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a public office election service.
12. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a medical records service.
13. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a resume matching service.

14. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a company credit reporting service.

15. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a prepay service.

16. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is a translation service.

17. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the specified service is an environment service.

18. (original): Computer readable media containing computer instructions implementing the method of claim 1.

19. (canceled)

20. (amended): Computer readable media containing computer instructions implementing the method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 21.

21. (new): In a network comprised of a multiplicity of computers, each computer having a communication device, each computer having an operating system with interfaces for communication connectivity and synchronization, a method for providing and consuming services, the method comprising:

- a. in response to a consumer process executing on a first computer inside a firewall, requesting a connection, a common directory service process executing on a second computer outside the firewall accepts the connection and authenticates the request;
- b. in response to the connected consumer process sending a request to interact with a service provider service registered with the common directory service, the common directory service interacts with the request, locates the desired

- registered service provider service, and registers a pending transaction between the connected consumer process and the service provider service;
- c. the common directory service connects to the service provider service, sends a representation of a reference to the pending transaction, and disconnects from said connection;
  - d. in response to receiving said representation, the service provider service connects to the common directory service and sends said a request for the pending transaction to the common directory service, and
  - e. in response thereto, the common directory service authenticates the request and facilitates communication between the connected consumer process and the connected service provider service.